

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of operating a portable information handling system (IHS) comprising:
 - sensing a condition to which the IHS is subjected in the course of operation to provide sensed information;
 - analyzing the sensed information to determine if the IHS is currently in an unusable state; and
 - entering a reduced power mode, by the IHS, if it is found that the IHS is currently in an unusable state.
2. The method of claim 1 including sensing a first sensed condition to provide sensed information.
3. The method of claim 2 including sensing a second sensed condition to provide sensed information.
4. The method of claim 3 including sensing a third sensed condition to provide sensed information.
5. The method of claim 2 wherein the first sensed condition is ambient light around the IHS.
6. The method of claim 3 wherein the second sensed condition is motion of the IHS.
7. The method of claim 4 wherein the third sensed condition is orientation of the IHS.

8. The method of claim 5 wherein the IHS includes a display, the orientation of which is sensed in the sensing step.
9. The method of claim 3 wherein change in one sensed condition triggers wakeup of the IHS after the IHS has entered the reduced power mode.
10. The method of claim 3 wherein change in multiple sensed conditions triggers wakeup of the IHS after the portable IHS has entered the reduced power mode.
11. A method of operating a portable information handling system (IHS) comprising:
 - sensing a plurality of conditions to which the IHS is subjected in the course of operation to provide sensed information;
 - analyzing the sensed information to determine if the IHS is currently in an unusable state; and
 - entering a reduced power mode, by the IHS, if it is found that the IHS is currently in an unusable state.
12. The method of claim 11 wherein the plurality of sensed conditions includes ambient light of the IHS.
13. The method of claim 11 wherein the plurality of sensed conditions includes motion of the IHS.
14. The method of claim 11 wherein the plurality of sensed conditions includes orientation of the IHS.

15. The method of claim 11 wherein change in one sensed condition triggers wakeup of the IHS after the IHS has entered the reduced power mode.
16. The method of claim 11 wherein change in multiple sensed conditions triggers wakeup of the IHS after the IHS has entered the reduced power mode.
17. A portable information handling system (IHS) comprising:
 - a processor;
 - a memory coupled to the processor;
 - a condition sensor, coupled to the processor, for sensing a condition to which the IHS is subjected in the course of operation to provide sensed information; and
 - nonvolatile storage, coupled to the processor, for storing control software for analyzing the sensed information to determine if the portable IHS is currently in an unusable state and for causing the portable IHS to enter a reduced power mode if it is found that the portable IHS is currently in an unusable state.
18. The IHS of claim 17 wherein the sensed condition is ambient light of the IHS.
19. The IHS of claim 17 wherein the sensed condition is motion of the IHS.
20. The IHS of claim 17 wherein the sensed condition is orientation of the IHS.

21. A portable information handling system (IHS) comprising:
 - a processor;
 - a memory coupled to the processor;
 - a plurality of condition sensors, coupled to the processor, for sensing a plurality of conditions to which the IHS is subjected in the course of operation to provide sensed information; and
 - nonvolatile storage, coupled to the processor, for storing control software for analyzing the sensed information to determine if the portable IHS is currently in an unusable state and for causing the portable IHS to enter a reduced power mode if it is found that the portable IHS is currently in an unusable state.
22. The IHS of claim 21 wherein the plurality of sensed conditions includes ambient light of the IHS.
23. The IHS of claim 21 wherein the plurality of sensed conditions includes motion of the IHS.
24. The IHS of claim 21 wherein the plurality of sensed conditions includes orientation of the IHS.